

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph of the Specification beginning at page 5, lines 25, as follows:

The digger derrick 10 is also preferably equipped with a side load protection system 42 that reduces or prevents damage to the boom 18 and other portions of the digger derrick 10 when an undesired side load is applied to the boom 18. One such side load protection system is disclosed in the '973 patent referenced above and another is disclosed in pending patent application entitled "A Side Load Detection and Protection System for Rotatable Equipment", Serial No. _____ 09/846,977, filed _____, May 1, 2001, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,735,486 entitled "Side Load Detection and Protection System for Rotatable Equipment", also hereby incorporated into the present application by reference.